



Air Force Association (NSW Division) - RADAR Branch

Minutes of the RADAR Branch Committee Meeting

Held at Stockton RSL, 29 Douglas Street, Stockton NSW
on Friday 9th September 2022.

ITEM 1: Meeting Opening and introduction

The Chair declared the meeting open at 1100 and called for one minutes silence for deceased comrades and also to mark the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who had died last night after reigning for more than 70 years.

ITEM 2: Attendees and Apologies

Members Present

Ray O'Donoghue	President, Membership Officer, Acting Treasurer,	Chair
John King	Vice President	
Tony Rogers	Committee Member	
Ian Gibson	Secretary	
Jim Stewart	Branch Historian	
Narelle Owen	Committee Member	
WOFF Paul Argus	WOFF 41WG	

Apologies

GPCAPT Brett Risstrom	OC 41WG and Senior Serving Member
GPCAPT Peter Davies	Branch Member

ITEM 3: Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held at Stockton RSL Club on Friday 17 June 2022 had been distributed via email.

Motion: That the minutes from the 17 June 2022 meeting be accepted.

Moved: Ray O'Donoghue **Seconded:** Tony Rogers

Motion Carried

ITEM 4: Business arising from the minutes of the 17 June 2022 meeting.

- a. **Action 10/1/21:** Jim Stewart and WGCdr Tatnell to liaise and determine how best to digitally record and store Radar history. (Secretary's note: In addition, consideration should be given to how Branch members might be able to access the stored information). The plan was to store the history in the Defence Objective database, but nothing has been heard about progress or otherwise. Jim is continuing to store Branch and Unit History on the Defence Objective database, and is investigating options to make the history available to members.

New Action 1/1/22 is related to this action

Jim noted that some of the history material had been input while he was at Fleet HQ then more while at HQAC; he is now unable to access this material as he is no longer posted to those areas. Jim then commented that Warren Mann had had a database (the RADAR Returns database) that has a great deal of radar history, however this database has been 'cancelled' and was also not able to be accessed. He commented that he believed there was a cost involved to reactivate it, but wasn't aware of that cost. Jim did state that he had taken photocopies of all pages relating to radar sites and sectors; those pages still need to be scanned. WOFF Argus asked Jim to email the pages to him and he would arrange scanning at 41WG. Tony Rogers then commented that a lot of the history is held by the RAAF Museum, and that we need someone to go to the museum and access it all. WOFF Argus commented that 41WG might also be able to assist in this regard by sending WOFF Helmut Sturn to the Museum, but would need Jim to advise what material they should be looking for.

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New Action 1/4/22: Jim Stewart to advise WOFF Argus of the scope of history required from the RAAF Museum.

New Action 2/4/22: WOFF Argus to request OC 41WG approval to assist and determine the extent of assistance able to be offered.

It was agreed that Action 10/1/21 is now OBE and it should be subsumed into Action 1/1/22. Accordingly, Action 10/1/21 is now **Closed**.

- b. **Action 2/3/21:** Ray O'Donoghue to email Branch 'mission' material to WOFF Harper. In addition, Ray O'Donoghue commented that he has some experience with building websites using a tool called 'SimpleSite'. Ray offered to have a look at this as an alternative to the Facebook page.

Ray had made a start on the SimpleSite page but was not far into it. It was agreed that this would be put in abeyance pending discussions on the future of the Branch to prevent nugatory work. Action remains on hold. GPCAPT's Risstrom and Davies advised that the 41WG POC should be the 41WG WOFF - i.e. action on the position, not incumbent.

It was agreed that this action is aligned with Action 1/1/22 and should be subsumed into that action. Therefore, AI 2/3/21 is **Closed**.

- c. **Action 1/1/22:** Jim Stewart to explore the potential for Radar Branch history storage on the AFA NSW Division Web Site.

A/Secretary's Note: In light of the discussion on the future of the Branch, this AI (and AI 2/3/21) should be placed on hold until the proposal to merge with FSB has been resolved. GPCAPT Davies has looked at the FSB website and believes it has a viable solution - <https://fsb.raafansw.org.au/>

Jim hasn't yet looked into this issue yet; accordingly, the action remains **Open**.

- d. **Action 3/1/22:** Ray O'Donoghue to approach 41WG and 44WG to determine how to get award plaques to the recipients for 2021 awards.

Ray advised that the labels need to be put into the award books and he will bring the books to the next meeting. He also noted that one of the labels for the 2020 awards needs to be changed; WOFF Argus advised that the label has been replaced in house. Paul also advised that nominations for the 2022 awards have been received and the board to assess the nominations will sit on or about 22 September. The award winners will be advised by an Order of the Day, which will be sent to committee members. Ray said he wasn't sure if the plaques had been purchased for the 2022 awards. Tony suggested that Ray contact Diane Taylor as she had been looking after the plaques and engraving for the last two years. **Open**.

New Action 3/4/22: Ray O'Donoghue to contact Diane Taylor to ascertain the status of plaques for this year's awards.

ITEM 5: Correspondence

Ian Gibson went through the list of correspondence as follows:

- **28 Jun 2022:** Email from William Forsbey advising renewal of the raafradar.org.au domain name was due. The name has been renewed for two years at a cost of \$51.95.

New Action 4/4/22: Ray O'Donoghue to refund William for his out of pocket expenses in paying the renewal fee.

- **3 Jul 2022:** Received email from Dave Winkelman advising a change of address which I forwarded to Ray for action on his return from overseas.

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New Action 5/4/22: Ray O'Donoghue to update his membership database and MMS to reflect Dave Winkelman's changed address.

- 20 Jul 2022: Email from Stephen Finney inviting RADAR Branch to join with the Newcastle & Hunter Region Vietnam Veterans to remember the 19 servicemen from the Newcastle and Hunter Region who were KIA in South Vietnam.
- 1 Aug 2022: Email from Dr Jacqueline Laughland-Booy Chief Investigator Veteran Life Research, Australian Catholic University Survey of Veteran Service Providers for Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide CRM:0085967, inviting the Branch to complete a survey of organisations offering services to veterans and their families. I forwarded the email to William Forsbey, who later completed the survey.
- 4 Aug 2022: Dispatched (via email) the letter to all members advising of the committee decision regarding the future of the Branch.
- 7 Aug 2022: Email from a Mr John Beasy, an NT based author and wartime historian. His 'great friend and radar mentor from Adelaide was Morrie Fenton'. Mr Beasy was seeking information about French made equipment found at the site of 61/307 Radar Station on Peron Island in the NT. I forwarded the email to Jim Stewart and GPCAPT Brett Risstrom. *Jim was at a loss to explain the French equipment, as he wasn't aware of any French equipment being used.*
- 10 Aug 2022: Email from Ron Haack, inviting Ian Gibson to attend the FSB meeting on Friday 19 Aug to discuss the merger. *Ian Gibson attended the meeting and his report from the meeting will be covered at Item 7.*
- 15 Aug 2022: Email from Jim Stewart raising concerns about the proposed merger with FSB. I responded addressing his concerns – hopefully satisfactorily!
- 17 Aug 2022: Email from GPCAPT (Ret'd) Doug Roser as Treasurer for The Entrance Long Jetty RSL Sub Branch, requesting information about the Newcastle Battle of Britain commemoration. I advised him to contact Ron Haack (President FSB) as FSB now organise the event.
- 30 Aug 2022: Email received from (as a cc address) GPCAPT Brett Risstrom responding to an email from a SQNLDR Richard Brougham (FLTCDR at 100 SQN) regarding 41WG representation at a Remembrance Day ceremony to be held at Ash Island (near Hexham) where 131 RS was located during WWII. *Ray had received a phone call from SQNLDR Brougham's mother (who is involved in organising the event) seeking advice about how to conduct such a ceremony. John King advised that DVA has a guide to such events that would probably serve the purpose. Jim Stewart thought that as the Ash Island site had been the location for training all radar operators and controllers (following the move from New Lambton Public School) during WWII, that SACTU was the appropriate unit to represent the RAAF at the ceremony.*

New Action 6/4/22: Ian Gibson to email OC 41WG (cc CO SACTU) suggesting that SACTU might send a catafalque party and perhaps a flag marshal (if the site has a flag). In addition, perhaps CO SACTU would be an appropriate guest speaker at the ceremony.

New Action 7/4/22: Ray O'Donoghue to email SQNLDR Brougham's mother to arrange a meeting to discuss how to proceed and clarify what her group want.

- 5 Sep 2022: Email from Ron Haack (President FSB) inviting RADAR Branch to the Newcastle Battle of Britain commemoration on 16 Sep 22. Ian Gibson tabled the

invitation. This was followed by a further email from the FSB honorary secretary on 7 Sep 22 with the same invitation details.

Narelle Owen said she would attend on behalf of the Branch.

PS: On the evening of Friday 9 September, Ian Gibson received a further email from Ron Haack advising that AFA NSW President had cancelled all BoB commemorations as a mark of respect following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Ian then advised Narelle.

ITEM 6: Office Bearers Reports

Treasurer's Report (Annex A)

Ray advised that he has refunded the balance of grant funds (\$114.00) to DVA remaining from the NLPS memorial. Ray also commented that another member has joined the Branch through Division and thus Division owes the Branch \$5.00.

Motion: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Moved: Ray O'Donoghue **Seconded:** Ian Gibson

Motion Carried

President's Report (Annex B)

While overseas Ray had emailed NLPS to discuss what issue they have with the memorial, but had not receive any response. Apparently they have an issue with the stone supplied, but the committee agreed that no further grants would be sought for a replacement stone. Ray said that he would try to arrange a meeting with the school for next Thursday, 15 Sep.

Membership Officer's Report (Annexe C)

Ray advised that Branch membership had remained on par with last year; active membership is around 40, comprising full financial of 27, multiple members 6, non-financial 15. There are approximately 12 serving members who didn't pay subscriptions and are thus included in the non-financial.

ITEM 7: General Business

1. Update on NLPS Project (John King)

John advised that the Federal DVA grant had been acquitted but he hasn't received any confirmation email; he has however had a phone response during which he was told the grant has been acquitted. He is still trying to sort out the NSW DVA refund of \$114.00 – the money has been refunded, but no receipt has been received. When John gets acknowledgment from DVA NSW, he will send the acquittal to NLPS and that will end the Branch's involvement. Ray (via his iPad) sent John a copy of the refund transaction details. John then stated that he believed that the memorial stone (which the school was apparently unhappy with) has been returned to Edstein Creative at Sandgate, and John believes the plaque might also be there! Following repeated attempts, John has been unable to get any response from the school either by email or phone. Ray stated that he would attempt to call in at Edstein on his way home from the meeting.

2. Discussion of Branch future following meeting with FSB (Ian Gibson)

Ian commented that prior to attending the meeting with FSB, he had a quick look at the FSB web site and noted that there was no mention of Newcastle Branch (or Chapter), notwithstanding that Newcastle had followed a similar path of amalgamating with FSB in 2019. This raised the question of how people could find and/or join 'Newcastle Branch', and by extension, how would RADAR Branch be found following any amalgamation. When this question was put to the FSB meeting, there was no clear answer, as there is no formal or informal determination of 'Chapter' or 'sub-branch'.

[**Edit:** Ian has since discovered on the AFA NSW web site the following: “You will notice that on this website some member groups are titled Chapters instead of the customary Branches. This is simply a nomenclature initiative necessitated by the use of computer based membership management to differentiate between those member groups that are self-administering (Branches) and those whose membership administration is managed by a sub-committee of the State Council (Chapters).”]

While this definition does not provide a ready solution to the naming of a branch that might amalgamate with another, we could perhaps propose the inclusion of ‘sub-branch’ into the nomenclature to cover this situation.

There was no representative from the former Newcastle Branch in attendance – and from some comments, this seemed to be the usual situation.

Ian then stated that he asked the FSB committee the following questions:

- What amount does FSB charge for subscription and does that amount take into account the recent increase in capitation mandated by National?
Annual subscriptions are \$35.00 which includes the increase in capitation.
- How would the RADAR Branch membership be transferred to FSB?
This would be done quite simply through the MMS.
- How would the transfer and accounting of RADAR Branch funds be handled?
The transfer would be a simple electronic funds transfer. The accounting is achieved by maintaining a separate ledger for RADAR funds, although the funds are all held in one account. FSB maintains approximately \$130,000 in a Latrobe Term Investment account which is currently earning 4.3% interest, which roughly equates to \$450.00 per month. A percentage of this monthly interest (proportionate to the amount transferred to FSB) would be credited to the RADAR Branch portion of the invested funds.
- Would there be any issue with RADAR Branch (or Chapter) maintaining the annual presentation of Ulett and Pither Awards and how would this be funded?
There would be no problem with continuing with the awards, with the withdrawals coming from a cash account and any adjustment being noted in the term investment account. FSB would not interfere with RADAR Branch expenditures; as long as it did not impact the greater funds pool.
- Would RADAR Branch members become Multiple Members?
No, not multiple members and would only pay one subscription amount of \$35.00.
- How would the RADAR Branch be reflected on the FSB web site, as we still get enquiries from people wishing to join and also relating to WWII radar sites and radar history etc?
Would have to talk to Steve Smith (former Hornet pilot) who designed and built the FSB site. Steve runs DiBiz, a company specialising in providing web presence solutions for a range of organisations (<https://www.dibiz.net.au/>).
- Would the RADAR Branch be able to store our history on the FSB web site?
This was again a question for Steve Smith. During this discussion, it was revealed that AFA NSW pays for the FSB domain name registration and server hosting. As with all the squadron associations that now form part of FSB, RADAR Branch could have a badge on the home page to reflect our presence on the web site. Geoff Peterkin (FSB) suggested that he and Ian could meet with Steve Smith to provide some answers to these questions.

As a result of Ian’s meeting with FSB, he was left concerned that RADAR Branch identity might be lost following any amalgamation with FSB, unless we took steps to prevent that

occurring as part of the amalgamation process. Ray then commented that he had brought up the FSB web site and the squadron badges did not provide a link to more information about the squadron. This was a concern as we would want the RADAR badge to link to information about the Branch, such as history, awards, membership etc. Ian noted that we don't have badge as such, but he had a photo of the TPS-77 at sunrise at Kandahar in Afghanistan that might serve the purpose.

Tony read from a section of the current Division Constitution which noted that when a branch can no longer continue independently, it is subsumed into Division HQ, along with that branch's funds. It was felt by all in attendance that we wanted to avoid that occurring to RADAR Branch.

Narelle Owen said that it would be incumbent on us to ensure we attended the FSB meetings, so as not to lose our identity.

Ray thought that with these issues to be resolved, it is unlikely that we can proceed with the amalgamation prior to the next renewal period. He then proposed that we renew membership as the RADAR Branch at \$35.00 to align with the FSB subscription amount and leave the decision on how to proceed until next year – perhaps until the AGM next April. Ray also suggested we could invest our funds (as FSB does) in the Latrobe Term investment, in which he had invested in the past and which shows an annual return of approximately 5% over many years.

Motion: That Branch subscriptions be raised to \$35.00 for the 2022 renewal period.

Moved: Jim Stewart

Seconded: Narelle Owen

Motion Carried

Following Ian's meeting with FSB, the following issues need to be satisfactorily resolved:

- How to link RADAR web site to FSB site
- Draft wording to add to FSB home page to identify that RADAR Branch (Chapter/Sub-Branch) is part of the organisation and provide links to RADAR specific pages detailing history, awards etc.
- Draft agreement confirming that FSB committee cannot deny RADAR funds expenditure as RADAR members (this would normally be committee, but post amalgamation, we would likely not have a separate committee) see fit.
- Advise Division of the status of RADAR Branch and request financial assistance to pay ongoing costs for web site, server space and domain registration etc (as per their funding of FSB). This could also potentially request funding (in part or full) to cover expenses for annual awards.
- Propose an alteration to the Division constitution to include a sub-branch category, or to expand the definition of 'Chapters' to cover the circumstances of one branch amalgamation with a larger branch.

ITEM 8: Other Business

There was no other business discussed.

ITEM 9: Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **14 October 2022**. Tony advised that he'd be unable to attend on that date, but could potentially make 21 October. Ray then suggested that whichever of 7, 14 or 21 October could be used in order to gain the greatest attendance. The venue will be Stockton RSL Club, 29 Douglas Street, Stockton NSW.

New Action 8/4/22: All committee members to advise secretary their preferred date for next meeting.

ITEM 10: Meeting Closure

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 1329.

R O'Donoghue
President (Chair)
Date:

I Gibson
Secretary
Date:

Annexes:

- A. Treasurer's Report
- B. President's Report
- C. Membership Officer's Report:

The Radar Branch
RAAF Association (NSW Division) Inc.

Statement of Receipts and Payments, Year To - 31/05/2022.

RECEIPTS

Balance at Bank 01/01/2022	2991.27
Subscriptions	10.00
Grants	0.00
Donations	100.00
	<u>3101.27</u>

PAYMENTS

NLPS Project expenses - Flagpoles Pty Ltd - Flagpole	1116.50
Welfare Vale Tributes	0.00
RAAF Awards: Plaques	0.00
Ray O'Donoghue – ANZC wreath refund	111.85
DVA Grant Refund	905.25
Capitation NSW Division	0.00
	<u>2133.60</u>

Balance as per Bank 967.67

SUMMARY

Balance	967.67
Allowance for Grants refunds (up to)	111.75
Allowance for late capitation	100.00
Allowance For PIA Capitation	110.00
	<u>645.52</u>
Petty Cash	100.00
Cash Reserve (Incl Interest)	4282.63
Total Funds Available	<u>5028.15</u>

Notes:

- 1) A residual allowance of up to \$111.75 has been made for repayment of unused Grant Funds. Exact amount required TBD in consultation with VP.
- 2) Thanks to another Multiple Member renewal and donation, the Branch finances have improved slightly.
- 3) A review of Branch and Div records show that we still owe Div \$100 for four members. This will be addressed prior to the next meeting.

Ray O'Donoghue,
A/Treasurer.

Air Force Association (NSW Division)

RADAR Branch

President's Report – 17th June 2022

The President represented the Branch at the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Nobby's Beach. It was very gratifying to be able to resume our participation. Unfortunately, other commitments by various members of the Committee meant that the Branch was not present at the main march and service in Newcastle. However, members did attend at various services in the region.

The Branch, along with 41 Wing and 3CRU representation, attended the New Lambton Public School's ANZAC Day service on 27th April, at which the plaque commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the establishment of 102 FS was presented to the school. The relocated flagpole was used for the first time. The school will undertake design and development of the commemorative garden over the next two terms, and is planning to commission the garden on Remembrance Day in November.

Discussions are progressing, albeit slowly, on the proposal to merge with Fighter Squadrons Branch. A letter will be sent out to members in the next few weeks to determine the level of support for the proposal.

Due to ill health and ongoing family issues for both the President and Secretary, Executive level activity has been limited since the last meeting. However, our indefatigable Vice President has been refining the progress of our NLPS project and will, no doubt, provide us with an update at the meeting.

Ray O'Donoghue
President
RADAR Branch

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER'S REPORT

2022-23 Meeting 3 – 17 June 2022

1. **GENERAL NOTES.** The renewal campaign for 2022 has achieved satisfactory results, in that membership numbers are stable. However, we are not attracting newly separated or serving members in sufficient numbers to ensure the long-term viability of the Branch. Discussions on the possibility of merging with Fighter Squadrons Branch (FSB) are ongoing.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS. Changes since the last report:

NEW/REJOIN	RENEWALS	MULTIPLE	RESIGNED	DECEASED
0	0	1	0	0

Current membership numbers for CY21 compared to CY22 are:

FULL FINANCIAL (Incl 2 x OS, 1 x Life)	MULTIPLE	FULLY SUBSCRIBED	NON- FINANCIAL (Incl 2 OS to SM; and 2 Non-Fin OS) ³	TOTAL ACTIVE
28/25	5/6	0	14/15	47/46

NON-CURRENT^{1 2}	LOST CONTACT	TOTAL NON-ACTIVE	VALE THIS CY
35/37	6	41/43	0

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES.

3. **VALE.** None known.
 4. **REJOINED/NEW.** See above.
 5. **RENEWALS.** See above.

MEMBERSHIP MANAGEMENT

6. **MASTER LIST.** The Master List has been updated up to 16 Jun 22.
 7. **MMS.** The MMS on the RAAFA (NSW) website has been updated to reflect our current membership, including renewals.

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- 8. SUBSCRIPTIONS.** Following discussions at the AGM, a decision on subscriptions will not be made until the proposal to join FSB has been resolved.

AWARDS

- 9. NLPS BOOKS.** Books for this year's ANZAC Day gift to the school have been presented.
- 10. 41 & 44 WING AWARDS.** Plaques and books have been purchased for this year's awards. However, due to the COVID situation, it is not yet known when the awards will be presented.

PROJECT

- 11. NLPS COMMEMORATIVE GARDEN.** The flagpoles, plaque and stone incline have been purchased and delivered. John King can elaborate on the progress. The school marked the 80th Anniversary of the establishment of 102 FS at their ANZAC Day event on 27th April. The garden is expected to be commissioned on Remembrance Day.

Ray O'Donoghue

Membership Officer

1. I maintain a list of members who have been non-financial for more than one calendar year, or who have resigned. I categorise these members as Non-Current.
2. Of the Non-Current members, nine are Service Members who are not required to be financial.
3. Non-Financial members are those who were financial up to the end of the preceding calendar year. Included in this list are those currently serving members who had been previously financial (category Ordinary Serving – OS) but who have not renewed their financial status. As such, their category has been reverted to Service Member (SM). All Non-Financial members appear on the Current Membership page.